

What Brothers Can Do

by Robert Notgrass

In the inspired, inerrant Word of God, the word brother and its root occur 630 times. And, the word means not only brother, but friend. Of course, when we think of brothers in the Bible, we tend to describe a brother as the son of one's mother. Such as Cain and Abel. And, these brothers were, by our understanding of the Hebrew word *aaaaahf* (ah), extremely close at one point. In Deuteronomy 13:6, Moses penned that brothers then were as close, "as thine own soul . . ." Sadly though, Cain allowed jealousy to reign in his life which turned to hatred and he killed his brother.

Later, we read of half brothers such as Ishmael and Isaac or Joseph and his half brothers (Genesis 10). As for Joseph's brothers, they too were extremely jealous of Joseph and turned to hatred (Genesis 37:2-5). So, they sold their brother as a slave and considered him dead. In both instances, the brothers showed symptoms of jealousy. But, was their jealousy, in the eyes of God, acceptable?

No. God showed his disapproval for such animosity. Cain was cursed (Genesis 4:10-12) and Jacob did not fully become Israel until after he reconciled to Esau (Genesis 35:10; 32:28; 33:4). In Exodus 20:5 and other areas, it states that God is a jealous God. This word is interesting because *fnNaq* (*qanna'*) is solely used by God and only when dealing with idolatry. In the New Testament, the apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 11:2, said that he was jealous. However, he meant a godly jealousy which arose from his desire that the church be faithful to Christ and not turn aside to another. And, while we can have godly jealousy, the Old Testament used the word *hf):nIq* (*qin'a*) for jealousy. In Song of Solomon 8:6, "... jealousy is cruel

as the grave . . ." This type of jealousy shows to be no good.

Now, did Cain display godly jealousy when he killed his brother Abel? Which did Joseph's brothers have for him? Which jealousy did Absalom have for Amnon which resulted in his murder (2 Samuel 13:29)? Or what about Jacob and Esau? Whatever happened to brothers being as Moses said, "as thine own soul?"

In the New Testament, we find more than 350 uses of brother. And, there are three different words used for brother, but primarily, we find the word, *adelyov* (*adelphos*). This of course refers to male children of the same parents (Matthew 1:2) or male children of the same mother (Matt. 13:55). And, while it can also refer to a brother-in-law, or countrymen, it also refers to persons united by a common interest (Matthew 5:47), persons by a common calling (Revelation 22:9), the disciples, which means all believers (Matthew 28:10) and this even includes sisters that are believers (1 Timothy 5:2).

But, what can brothers do? Well, consider these verses: 1 Peter. 3:8, "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous." Romans 12:10, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another." 1 Thessalonians 4:9, "But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another." Hebrews 13:1, "Let brotherly love continue." 1 Peter 1:22, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently."

Lord's Supper, Not Ours

by Jon Mitchell

Each week, those called by the gospel into God's kingdom (1 Thess. 2:12; 2 Thess. 2:14) gather together to partake of communion (Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-28). We do this each Sunday because our Lord, while instituting his Supper, spoke of not partaking of it with his disciples again "until that day" when the kingdom of God comes (Matt. 26:29; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:18; cf. Matt. 18:20; Heb. 2:11-12). The kingdom – the church (Col. 1:13; 1 Thess. 2:12; Rev. 1:4, 6, 9) – came on the day of Pentecost, a Sunday (Acts 2:1-42; Lev. 23:15-16), which is why the early Christians observed communion and gave of their means on that day (Acts 20:7; cf. 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 16:1-2).

As with anything that is done with regularity, it can be very easy for "familiarity" to "breed contempt" with some, and more likely the thoughtless apathy of neglect with others. Each Sunday, thousands of Christians will break off a piece of unleavened bread and drink a small amount of fruit of the vine...just like last week. For some, there is not much time between their sip of the cup and the time when they know the offering plate will be passed around...and so now's a great time to get that check ready. Everything's usually very quiet during this time...what better time to get the kid's snacks and coloring books ready before the sermon starts? Plus, that cute baby in the row right in front of you is grinning at you...surely it would be harmless fun for you to play "Peek-a-Boo" with her for a bit before the next prayer!

Most or all of us – myself included – have been guilty of offering to God the meaningless worship which consists of doing what he requires of us in praise to him on the surface while our hearts and minds are thousands of miles away (Matt. 15:7-9). We need to remember that God requires and is looking for spiritual worship based in truth (John 4:23-24). Are we really any different from the one who habitually forsakes the assembly (Heb. 10:25) when we are present in body and action but absent in mind and spirit?

For this reason, the abuse of the Lord's Supper by the church of Corinth (1 Cor. 11:17-33) is a worthy topic for our consideration and study. Paul's rhetorical question about them having houses to eat and drink in if they were hungry (vs. 22, 34) implies that they were looking at communion in the same way as they would an ordinary meal, something easy to start doing when partaking of it on a weekly basis. Thus, they were "digging in" without even waiting for all of their brethren to assemble (vs. 20-21, 33), leaving nothing...

save humiliation...for those who came afterwards (v. 22). In this way there were despising God's church for which his Son died (v. 22; cf. Acts 20:28) and were not worthy of Paul's commendation (v. 22).

There was another reason they were despising the church and worship of God, the same reason they had started treating communion like a common meal. They had forgotten the true purpose and meaning behind it. This is why God inspired Paul to remind them by talking first of the circumstances surrounding its institution by Christ, that it had begun on the night Christ was betrayed, the night before he died (v. 23). He then reminded them that the bread represents his body "which is for you" (v. 24), given to go through the horrendous pain and humiliation of scourging and crucifixion so that we would not have to pay the penalty for our sins (Rom. 5:6-11; 6:23; 1 John 2:1-2). The cup represents "the new covenant in my blood" (v. 25), the new covenant which does what the first could not: grant us forgiveness of our sins through the blood Christ freely shed on that cross (Heb. 8:7-12; 9:11-15; Eph. 1:7; cf. Acts 22:16; 1 John 1:7-9).

We are to remember these things – all that Christ accomplished for us by his death – when we partake of communion (v. 25). By doing so, we "proclaim" the great significance of the Lord's death until he comes again (v. 26). Of course, a failure to remember the eternal significance of the Lord's sacrifice shows that one considers that sacrifice to be "a common thing" (Heb. 10:27), a mindset that leads to willful sin that makes that sacrifice of no benefit to you (Heb. 10:26-31). This is why God considers those who partake of communion "in an unworthy manner" – i.e., without remembering his death and the significance of it – to be guilty of basically crucifying his Son again (v. 27; cf. Heb. 6:4-6). This is why we are to examine ourselves when we partake (v. 28; cf. 2 Cor. 13:5), in order to discipline ourselves to put our focus where it needs to be (1 Cor. 9:25-27).

Communion is the Lord's supper, not ours (v. 20). Literally, it "belongs to the Lord." When we forget that, we forget to discern the sacrifice of his body which that bread represents...and as a result we become spiritually weaker and sicker until God brings the judgment of the second death upon us (vs. 29-30; cf. Rom. 6:23; Rev. 21:8). We need to be reminded of this, because oftentimes we do not look at what we do the way God does (v. 31; cf. Is. 59:2). I hope that my comments on these Scriptures will give us the proper discipline and motivation we need in order to no longer neglect the Lord's Supper so that we will not be among those whom God condemns in the end (v. 32).

Correspondence/Encouragement

Inmate Correspondence:

Zachory Cabano #01886823

Beto Unit
1391 FM 3328
Tennessee Colony, TX 75880

Caleb Ivie #01946171

Hutchins Unit
1500 E. Langdon Rd.
Dallas, TX 75241

Paul Jones #01934698

Bradshaw Unit
PO Box 9000
Henderson, TX 75653

Missions Correspondence:

Cherokee Home for Children

Director: Delton McGuire
PO Box 295
Cherokee, TX 76832
Email: chc@centex.net

New Zealand Harvest Missions

James & Emily Cammock
PO Box 412
Waikato Mail Centre
Hamilton 3240
New Zealand
Email: church-of-christ-cammock@hotmail.com

La Poynor Prison Ministry

Steve & Carrie Handley
11353 CR 4345
La Rue, TX 75770
Email: shandley56@gmail.com

WVBS Online School

Director: Russell Haffner
25 Lantana Ln.
Maxwell, TX 78656
Website: school.wvbs.org

Southwest School of Bible Studies:

Corey Tackett (1st Year Student)

1215 W. Slaughter Ln. #1424
Austin, TX 78748

Encouragement:

Aline Barrett

296 FM 2555
Corsicana, TX 75110

Don & Shirley Bowen

1100 Woodcastle
Corsicana, TX 75110

Melba & Eleanor Bower

2011 Fairfax
Corsicana, TX 75110

Wanda Brown

3002 W. 2nd Ave. #206
Corsicana, TX 75110

Joann Chambers

3002 W. 2nd Ave. #400
Corsicana, TX 75110

Mary Crews

3002 W. 2nd Ave. #514
Corsicana, TX 75110

Janice Elder

809 Ambassador
Corsicana, TX 75110

Gayle & Christine Garner

915 N. 26th St.
Corsicana, TX 75110

Meagan Gould

800 Medinah
Corsicana, TX 75110

Paul Loosier

3210 W. Hwy 22 #211
Corsicana, TX 75110

Thelma Martin

1201 Ficklin Circle
Corsicana, TX 75110

Bud & Barbara Moore

441 NWCR 2160
Barry, TX 75102

Ruth Moore

213 W. Grady St.
Blooming Grove, TX 76626

Jewel Rutherford

3004 W. 2nd Ave. #623
Corsicana, TX 75110

Jan Sain

809 Ambassador
Corsicana, TX 75110

Barbara Shore

726 Grandview Dr.
Corsicana, TX 75110

Mollie Southard

10611 FM 2930
Blooming Grove, TX 76626

Scott & Paula Spillyards

1702 Waterway Cove
Whitehouse, TX 75791

James & Sue Welch

204 N. 2nd St.
Mabank, TX 75147

Louis & Patty Williams

1201 Ficklin Circle
Corsicana, TX 75110

Mission Works

Westhill Works

Benevolence Program

Local Works

Cherokee Children's Home - www.chc4kids.org
House to House, Heart to Heart
In Search of the Lord's Way
Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies
The Truth in Love - www.ttil.tv
WVBS Online School - school.wvbs.org

Prison Works

La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

Foreign Works

Four Seas Bible College, Singapore - Peter & Pooi Fun Chin
New Zealand Harvest Missions - James & Emily Cammock

Leadership

Elders

Percell Milton - 903.673.1819
Paul Slaughter - 903.872.1228
Paul Stewart - 903.872.3464
Darwin Thomas - 903.695.0176

Deacons

James Ainsworth - 903.872.1390
Scott Barham - 903.641.0133
David Baumgartner - 903.654.4057
Zach Drain - 903.521.6055
Dan Gibson - 903.641.9587
Joshua Haden - 903.602.9645
Micah Haden - 903.673.1177
James Horn - 903.599.9114

Michael Jones - 214.803.5984
Roy McCullough - 903.872.2069
Greg Olsen - 903.654.1406
James Olsen - 903.874.8918
Rusty Owens - 903.695.0095
Billy Roughton - 903.654.4032
Dickie Russell - 903.874.4457
David Shastid - 903.257.6464
Brent Stewart - 903.641.9052
Justin Williams - 903.875.8288

Ministers

Sam Dilbeck - 903.229.8415 (Pulpit)
Cory Myers - 512.627.6672 (Youth & Family)
Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

Prayer List

Anita Hawkins' son, Howie Hawkins, has returned home after being in the nursing home.

Continue to Remember: Gayle Garner, Neta Marshall, Velma McDougald, Bud Moore, Henry & Eula Parrish, Barbara Shore, Mollie Southard, Paula Spillyards, Patty Williams, Mary Barham, Anna Bolton, Meagan Gould, Frankie Torres

Service Men: Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart, Morgan Weaver, and Payton Weaver

Save the Date:

Girls Leadership Initiative - June 24-26
Vacation Bible School - July 11-13
Youth Mission Trip - July 16-20
Boys Leadership Initiative - July 29-31
Summer Youth Series (Here!) - August 2

Birthdays This Week

May 15 - Kristi Braly
May 16 - Jose Sosa
May 17 - Donna Brooks
May 18 - Terry Barrett

Next Week's Adult Class

Secret Journey to the Feast
(John 7:2-52)

Announcements

Congratulations to Alex & Gina Orosco on the birth of baby boy Samuel Alexandar. He was born May 10, weighing 11 lbs. 3 oz. and was 22.5 in. long.

"Dear Westhill Family, I asked you to pray for me while I waited for test results and you did; from your lips to God's ears. Thank you so much!" Love to all of you, Nancy Armstrong

Congratulations to our 2016 Graduating Seniors: Tyler Baumgartner, Callie Bearden, Carter Bearden, Alex Cuellar, Seth Haden, Zack Lewis, Brody Owens, Alex Pimentel, Zoey Rios, Austin Roughton, Dalton Shastid, and Keller Southard.

Open Door Thursday 3:30-6:30 PM in the Outreach Center for Jr. High and High School.

Register Now for the 2016 WOW Ladies' Retreat - September 23-24 at the Summers Mill Retreat Center in Salado, TX. Jeanny Gilpin of Salem, VA will speak on "Mary in a Martha World." Cost: \$65 for room and two meals; Optional \$12 for T-shirt.

Senior Graduation Banquet Thursday, May 26 at 6:30 PM. **Please, sign up at the back of the auditorium.**

Youth Mission Trip forms and payment are due next Sunday, May 22. See Cory for details.

Camp Ida Forms are available on the desk at the back of the auditorium. Forms & payment are **due to the camp by May 25.** Camp Dates: June 12-17

Records for May 8, 2016

Bible Class	176
AM Worship.....	279
PM Worship.....	142
Wednesday	136
Contribution	\$7,578.35

Privileged to Serve

Song Leader	David Baumgartner
Opening Prayer	Greg Olsen
Communion Leader	Nick Hoffman
Communion Servers	
Scott Barham	David Baumgartner
Joshua Haden	Seth Haden
Jimmy Horn	Don Ivy
Zack Lewis	Justin Mahoney
Rusty Owens	Aubrey Parrish
Paul Stewart	Robby Thomas
Mike Wylie	
Closing Prayer	Paul Stewart
Nursery	Paige Jennings & Ashley Jones
Security	David Baumgartner, Wade Hall, Brian Hand
PM Song Leader	Justin Mahoney
PM Opening Prayer	Kyle Slaughter
PM Closing Prayer	Wade Hall
Wed. Song Leader	Joshua Haden
Wed. Devotional	David Mahoney
May Contact Elder	Darwin Thomas - 903.695.0176